

by Mr. Ed. Potts, of Philadelphia, in a specimen found in "a small stream in the late Centennial grounds, Fairmont Park, Philadelphia" (*ib.* "about August 1880"), which he then named "*S. tentasperma*," and subsequently "*S. tenosperma*" (*ib.* p. 357), ending with "*Carterius tenosperma*," its present name, has now been found in Southern Russia and mid-Europe, as above stated.

In the same communication also Prof. Petr has described and illustrated, under the "provisional" name of "*Ephydatia bohemica*," another freshwater sponge, found at Kavasetice, in the same district, wherein the statoblast presents an *incipient* condition of the eirrous development characterizing *Carterius*, with a spiculation which appears to me, from the illustrations, to be very like that of his *C. Stepanowii*.

Lastly, Mr. H. Mills, of Buffalo, in a letter dated 20th Nov. 1886, sent me a specimen of *Carterius* from the Niagara River which he considers allied to *C. latitenta*, Potts (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil.* 1882, July 10th, p. 12), wherein the expanded portion of this development presents itself under the form of a cup, with even, circular margin (that is, entirely without eirrous appendages), whose bottom is pierced by the upright tubular part in the usual way; which "form" appears to prevail generally in the statoblasts of this variety.

*On some Optical Properties of the Peristome of Mosses.*

By M. J. AMANN.

The author describes some curious properties of the peristome of mosses when under polarized light. These properties, which have not been described up to the present time, deserve a closer study. According to M. Amann's observations, sometimes the outer layer of the peristome (exostome), sometimes the inner layer (endostome) rotates the plane of polarization and exhibits, when a thin plate of mica or of selenite is interposed, very brilliant colours, varying with the position of the two Nicols relatively to each other. This action of the peristome on polarized light varies from one family or genus to another. It is occasionally almost nil (*Pottiaceæ*, *Weissieæ*); feeble in the *Grimmiaceæ* and *Dicranaceæ*; strong in the *Mniaceæ* and *Hypnaceæ*. There appears to exist a curious relation between these optical properties and the amount of tannin contained in the membranes: thus, those richest in tannin are the most active; the endostome of *Camptothecium lutescens* affords a particularly good illustration in this respect.—*Bibliothèque Universelle, Archives des Sciences*, Dec. 15, 1886, p. 585.